



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

July 23, 2001

Poor Students vs. Bigger Government

This morning's *Washington Post* notes that "President Bush's plan to improve America's schools is moving again on Capitol Hill," while noting that differences remain on a handful of key issues. Of the key differences, none is more striking than the issue of refocusing federal education policy toward disadvantaged students.

President Bush and Republicans believe federal education spending should be refocused on disadvantaged students, targeting those dollars to students who need help the most instead of creating new programs that compete with poor children for funds. While the House bill reflects the President's call, the Senate bill misses the mark. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, the Senate bill expands the number of ESEA programs from 55 to 89, while the House bill helps schools and students by reducing red tape and duplication, streamlining the number of ESEA programs to 47.

According to the Department of Education, there are 49 overall programs in the House bill -- and 115 (that's one hundred and fifteen) in the Senate bill. The Senate bill creates a new panel and advisory committee, new resource and information centers, and programs for school safety in addition to those already run by the department. The Senate would continue programs for physical fitness and mock elections that are consolidated in the House bill.

Negotiators are taking a special look at this issue as Congress works to complete a final education bill. Disadvantaged students shouldn't have to compete for Washington's attention; they already face enough competition in their lives. Refocusing federal education policy on disadvantaged students is critical to ensuring that no child is left behind.

Message of the Day

The House-Senate conference must focus on President Bush's plan to target federal education resources toward helping disadvantaged students.

- ❑ *We must require states to demonstrate that they are closing achievement gaps between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.*
- ❑ *Federal education resources should be focused on helping students who are most in need of help.*
- ❑ *We should increase funding for programs that have proven effective and ensure that federal education dollars are targeted to where they will make the biggest impact for our children.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The Senate passed 135 amendments to S. 1. The House added three ESEA programs through the amendment process. The Senate added 29 new programs.
- President Bush has singled out technology as an area where the Department of Education has been administering several overlapping programs that could be consolidated to help states and students. The Senate did consolidate some of these programs, but left seven standing on their own.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The (Senate-House) conference process will give Congress a chance to refocus on the president's plan to use consolidation to increase local flexibility and control of education." **Lindsey Kozberg, spokeswoman for Education Secretary Rod Paige, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, July 7, 2001**